

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 16.

Please amend claims 1, 11, 17, and 18 to read as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An implantable prosthesis having improved mechanical and chemical properties comprising:
 - a radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible fabric having inner and outer surfaces and first and second ends;
 - said fabric having a textile construction of a plurality of polymeric filaments comprising a naphthalene dicarboxylate derivative, wherein said radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible fabric is stable at a temperature of at least about 120°C,
 - and wherein said fabric comprises a plurality of drawn polymeric yarns which are directionally aligned or oriented to increase strength and dimensional stability.
11. (Twice Amended) An implantable prosthesis having improved mechanical and chemical properties comprising:
 - a radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible tubular fabric of a textile construction,
 - said fabric having a plurality of yarns selected from the group consisting of polyethylene naphthalate, polybutylene naphthalate and combinations thereof, wherein said radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible fabric is stable at a temperature of at least about 120°C,
 - and wherein said fabric comprises a plurality of drawn polymeric yarns which are directionally aligned or oriented to increase strength and dimensional stability.
17. (Twice Amended) Method for making a radiation and thermal resistant and hydrolytically stable, steam sterilizable biocompatible prosthesis comprising:

- a) drawing a plurality of polymeric filaments comprising a naphthalene dicarboxylate derivative;
 - b) providing a fabric having an inner and outer surface and first and second ends, said fabric having a plurality of said drawn polymeric filaments, wherein said fabric being stable at a temperature of at least about 120°C;
 - c) selecting a textile construction pattern; and
 - d) forming said prosthesis in accordance with a textile construction pattern.
18. (Twice Amended) Implantable prosthesis comprising a fabric having improved chemical and mechanical properties formed by the process comprising:
- a) drawing a plurality of polymeric filaments comprising a naphthalene dicarboxylate derivative;
 - b) providing a fabric having an inner and outer surface and first and second ends, said fabric having a plurality of said drawn polymeric filaments, said fabric being stable at a temperature of at least about 120°C;
 - c) selecting a textile construction
 - d) forming said prosthesis in accordance with a textile pattern; and
 - e) steam sterilizing said prosthesis.

Please add new claims 19-21 to read as follows:

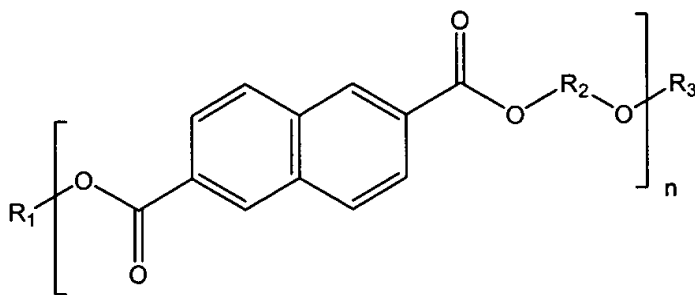
19. (New) The implantable prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said drawn polymeric yarns further increase tenacity of said prosthesis.
20. (New) The implantable prosthesis according to claim 18, wherein the step of drawing a plurality of polymeric filaments further comprises drawing said polymeric filaments to a point just prior to the fracture point.

21. (New) An implantable prosthesis having improved mechanical and chemical properties comprising:

a radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible fabric having inner and outer surfaces and first and second ends;

said fabric having a textile construction of a plurality of polymeric filaments comprising a naphthalene dicarboxylate derivative, wherein said radiation resistant and hydrolytically stable biocompatible fabric is stable at a temperature of at least about 120°C,

wherein said naphthalene dicarboxylate derivative conforms to the formula:



wherein R_1 and R_3 are the same or different groups and are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen radicals and methyl radicals; R_2 is an alkylene radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may be linear or branched; and n is from about 10 to about 200.